

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

**CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
of the  
**SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
MPO Conference Room  
7632 15<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Sarasota., Florida

6:00 P.M.

**MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 2, 2009**

Bob Herrington, Planning Manager called the meeting to order on behalf of Chair Warner, at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was present. Those in attendance were as follows:

**PRESENT**

**Manatee County**

James Lacher  
Jill Winters  
Thomas O'Brien  
Stanley Hochman  
Gerald Noeske

**Sarasota County**

Kafi Benz  
Mitch McKnight  
Pamela Thompson  
John Hendricks  
Dorian Popescu  
1 Vacancy

**City of Sarasota**

John Teran  
Tollyn Twitchell

**City of Venice**

1 Vacancy

**Town of Longboat Key**

Charlie Czech

**City of Bradenton**

Don Bingham  
James Bruen

**City of Palmetto**

Mickey Hopkins

**Island Transportation Planning Organization**

Robert Engel

**Non-Voting Member**

Manon Lavoie, FDOT (arrived at 6:45)

**ABSENT**

**Manatee County**

Dale Stephenson (Excused)  
Lawrence Miller (Excused)  
David Sessions (Excused)  
Steve Shroyer (Excused)

**Sarasota County**

Millie Small (Excused)  
Joseph Miller (Excused)  
Rod Warner (Excused)

**City of North Port**

Michael Hatfield (Excused)

1     **Staff**

2     Bob Herrington, Planning Manager

3     Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager

4  
5     **Others**

6     Tony Sherrard, FDOT

7     Chris Piazza, FDOT

8     Aaron Kaster, FDOT

9     Jeffrey James, FDOT

10    Jennifer Nelson, Jacobs

11    Lara Webster, Jacobs

12    Jennifer Willman, Jacobs

13    Asela Silva, Tindale & Oliver

14  
15  
16    **CHAIR'S REPORT**

17  
18    There was no report given.

19  
20  
21    **MPO STAFF REPORT**

22  
23    Mr. Herrington reported on the following:

- 24  
25       •    The MPO Board at its March 2, 2009:
- 26  
27           -    Approved the reappointments of Mr. Stanley Hochman, Mr. David Sessions, Mr.
  - 28           -    James Lacher, Mr. Dale Stephenson, Mr. Gerald Noeske, and Mr. Thomas O'Brien to
  - 29           -    the CAC representing Manatee County.
  - 30           -    Held a public hearing to adopt a prioritized list of projects for possible Federal
  - 31           -    Economic Recovery/Stimulus Funding and an Amendment to the FY 2008/09-
  - 32           -    2012/13 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
  - 33           -    Manatee County representatives agreed to allow first priority for the cities and then
  - 34           -    Manatee County would receive the balance of money, if any.
  - 35           -    Sarasota County's priorities ensure each city within Sarasota County receives a
  - 36           -    portion of funding.
  - 37           -    The MPO Board agreed to divide any money received evenly (approximately \$7.1
  - 38           -    million per county) between the two counties.
  - 39           -    Adopted a Resolution granting the MPO Chair, Commissioner Nora Patterson,
  - 40           -    emergency authority to approve the Transportation Improvement Program
  - 41           -    amendment and authority for substitutions on the priority list.
  - 42           -    Renaissance Planning Group provided a follow up presentation to the Transportation
  - 43           -    Funding Workshop.
  - 44           -    During discussion regarding the Public Transportation System Analysis (PTSA), a
  - 45           -    foundation was laid to form a transit authority for both counties. A study of regional
  - 46           -    authority options was completed in 2004. An Interlocal Agreement for operations
  - 47           -    between the two counties was established.
  - 48           -    The Regional Authority Assessment was a report completed in 2004 presented to the
  - 49           -    Board and accepted. The main objective of that report was to determine if money

1 could be saved by combining both bus systems into one. There were not a lot of cost  
2 savings but perhaps other reasons to pursue it.

- 3 - Some of the highlights of the study included: Sarasota County has a transit authority  
4 that the cities chose a while back not to fully participate in which could be explored;  
5 possible Special districts or authorities in the counties; and special purpose authority  
6 that contracted service wherein you could have a special district such like a  
7 Community Development District that funded transit separately.
- 8 - A few years ago, Polk County created a Transportation Authority that was passed in  
9 the 2007 legislature.
- 10 - It was suggested for the MPO Board to think about whether it is something to  
11 consider for just transit or consider an authority to also look at tolling, bridges, etc.
- 12 - Four key points which were the MPO's leadership role; the role of the standard  
13 transit network; the possible creation of a two county transit authority and broadening  
14 demands of transportation revenue.
- 15 - The Board voted to explore the possibility of establishing an independent transit  
16 authority.
- 17 - The Board directed staff to bring back revenue opportunities for off the top funding  
18 for MPO that does not count against our fair share.

19  
20  
21 **FDOT'S REPORT**

22  
23 There was no report given.

24  
25  
26 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

27  
28 There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

29  
30  
31 **I. CONSENT SECTION**

32  
33 1. Approval of the February 19, 2009 Meeting Minutes

34  
35 Ms. Benz: I move approval of the February 19, 2009 CAC  
36 meeting minutes.

37  
38 Mr. Twitchell: I second the motion.

39  
40 Under discussion, Mr. Popescu requested clarification regarding the Limited English  
41 Proficiency Plan. Mr. Herrington explained that as part of the MPO's Public  
42 Involvement Process (PIP) a mechanism/plan is required to be in place in order to address  
43 citizens in the area who have limited use of the English language; i.e. make available an  
44 interpreter and/or translate documents in a language of their understanding. Mr. Popescu  
45 commented on the extra expense the mandate would cause the MPO. Mr. Piazza clarified  
46 all State agencies are required to do same and FDOT has staff on board to assist MPOs in  
47 translating its documents if needed.

48  
49 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49

**II. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS (May Require CAC Action)**

1. TBARTA Update

TBARTA is charged with developing a Regional Transportation Master Plan by July 1, 2009. Ms. Jennifer Willman explained the goal of the Master Plan is to engage the public in developing a vision for regional integration of transportation systems, and will foster partnerships with governments, agencies, and business entities.

The plan will consider a variety of transportation modes, and address mobility, traffic safety, freight movement, emergency evacuation, and economic development needs around the region.

The plan will identify projects to accomplish these goals, estimate the costs of the projects, and identify potential funding sources. Projects may include express and rapid bus, passenger rail, ferries, freight services, and roadway improvements, among other types of transportation.

Ms. Willman distributed copies of maps depicting TBARTA's preliminary mid-term and long-term vision and provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding same.

Mr. O'Brien expressed concern with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in mixed traffic being suggested on the east/west route of SR 64, a very congested area. Ms. Willman responded traffic signal prioritization and fast boarding would be applied; i.e. riders will have already paid the fare, therefore when the bus pulls up riders will immediately board the bus. Mr. Herrington pointed out that Lynx in Orlando has an excellent example of BRT.

Discussion ensued regarding the demand for BRT or Express Bus changing prior to same being implemented. Ms. Willman responded TBARTA's Master Plan will be updated every two (2) years.

TBARTA's Master Plan will be released at its April 24, 2009 Board meeting along with a press conference at the Buccaneers spring training facility. 40,000 households in Manatee County and 40,000 households in Sarasota County will be invited to participate in an automated Town Hall meeting.

2. Manatee and Sarasota County I-75 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is conducting Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Studies following Federal Highway Administration National Environmental Policy Act guidance to evaluate improvements to I-75 from north of Moccasin Wallow Road in Manatee County to north of SR 681 in Sarasota County. The proposed improvements include widening I-75 to an ultimate configuration of ten lanes with six general use lanes (GUL) and 4 special use or express lanes (SUL), along with improvements to all interchanges within the project limits. All widening will occur within the existing FDOT ROW with the exception of interchange improvements, stormwater management facilities, and floodplain compensation sites.

1  
2  
3 The project needs is to accommodate population and employment growth and an  
4 evacuation route and is consistent with the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan  
5 (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and I-75 Engineering/Multi-  
6 Modal Master Plan.

7  
8 Ms. Jennifer Nelson, Jacobs, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on  
9 Sarasota County's portion of the I-75 PD&E Study, from south of SR 681 to north of  
10 University Parkway. The project overview includes 5 interchanges: SR 681, Clark Road,  
11 Bee Ridge Road, Fruitville Road and University Parkway:

12  
13 Mr. Chris Piazza, FDOT, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on  
14 Manatee County's portion of the I-75 PD&E Study from Moccasin Wallow Road to  
15 University Parkway. The project overview includes 5 interchanges: SR 70, SR 64, US  
16 301, I-275 and Moccasin Wallow Road.

17  
18 Discussion ensued regarding the justification of 10 laning of I-75 north of Moccasin  
19 Wallow Road. It was determined that the need may not be present, but 10 laning would  
20 be consistent with FDOT District Seven into Hillsborough County.

21  
22 More information may be found at [www.I-75pde.com](http://www.I-75pde.com) or on the MPO's website at  
23 [www.sarasota-manateempo.org](http://www.sarasota-manateempo.org).

24  
25 Due to time constraints, Mr. Herrington reordered the agenda to item III-1.

26  
27 **III. COMMITTEE ACTION**

28  
29 1. Congestion Management Process

30  
31 Mr. Asela Silva, Tindale & Oliver, provided an update of the Congestion Management  
32 Process (CMP) which has evolved from what was previously known as the Congestion  
33 Management System (CMS). This is an update to the original study done in 2007 and  
34 demonstrates compliance with requirements of the Federal Transportation Legislation  
35 that must be met by all recognized urbanized areas. This document identifies and  
36 outlines the key components for a performance-based objective-driving CMP.

37  
38 Mr. Czech asked if the CMP included message signs notifying motorists of blockage or  
39 heavy congestion and if so could more detailed information be included. Mr. Herrington  
40 pointed out Manatee County has placed messages along local roadways notifying  
41 motorists of same.

42  
43 Mr. Silva responded message signs on the major highways do provide information such  
44 as how long it will take to get from "point A to point B." Ms. Lavoie stated that only a  
45 small amount of information can be placed on the message signs due to safety concerns  
46 as dictated by the Florida Highway Patrol.

47  
48 Mr. Popescu: I move to recommend MPO Board adoption of the CMP.  
49

1 Mr. O'Brien: I second the motion.  
2

3 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
4

5 3. FDOT Project Expenditure Report  
6

7 It was the consensus of the CAC to defer this item to the June 4, 2009 meeting.  
8

9 4. Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Update  
10

11 Ms. Lavoie, FDOT stated the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) is a statewide network of  
12 high priority transportation facilities, including the State's largest and most significant  
13 commercial service airports, spaceport, deepwater seaports, freight rail terminals,  
14 passenger rail and intercity bus terminals, rail corridors, waterways and highways.  
15

16 In the Sarasota/Manatee MPO planning area, the SIS facilities include I-75, I-275,  
17 University Parkway from I-75 to the Sarasota Bradenton Airport, US 41 from I-275 to  
18 Port Manatee, SR 70 from I-75 to the Manatee County Line, Port Manatee, and the  
19 Sarasota Bradenton International Airport.  
20

21 FDOT is in the process of updating the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan. This  
22 update will consist of reviewing the goals, objectives and policies, and the development  
23 of strategies to make SIS implementation more effective. It will also update and clarify  
24 the criteria and thresholds used to designate SIS facilities.  
25

26 Ms. Lavoie encouraged the Members to go onto the website [www.SISupdate.org](http://www.SISupdate.org) to  
27 review the update and to contact her or Mr. Jim Baxter, FDOT, with any comments or  
28 questions.  
29

30  
31 **IV. DISCUSSION SECTION**  
32

33 1. Finalized Federal Economic Stimulus Project List  
34

35 Mr. Herrington pointed out the list provided was approved by the MPO Board of  
36 Prioritized Projects for Possible Federal Economic Stimulus Funding and the Amendment  
37 of the FY 2008/2009-2012/2013 Transportation Improvement Program to include said  
38 projects. The Board also authorized the Chair to make any necessary changes to the list.  
39 Mr. Herrington stated that the list was finalized and forward to the State Budget  
40 Committee and from there it will go to the Feds for final approval.  
41

42  
43 **V. OTHER BUSINESS**  
44

45 There was no other business brought forward.  
46  
47  
48  
49

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

There will be no meetings in May; the next regular meeting will be June 4, 2009.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.